

08CL07494
(GP1-0064)

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone conference of 21 May 2002 and the voicemail message of 23 May 2002.

Claims 24-34 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 1 has been amended to characterize the purpose of "passing said mixture through a fluid passageway" as - - removing said alkyl chloroformate from said mixture - -. Support for this amendment may be found, at least, in Claim 24 as filed.

It is believed that Claims 1-23 should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, their reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0862 maintained by Assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A marked-up version of Claim 1 follows:

1. (Amended/Marked-up) A method of preparing a dialkyl carbonate, comprising:

reacting an alkanol, oxygen, carbon monoxide, and a catalyst to form a mixture comprising a dialkyl carbonate, an alkyl chloroformate, hydrochloric acid, water, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide; and

removing said alkyl chloroformate from said mixture by passing said mixture through a fluid passageway at a temperature of about 30°C to about 130°C and for a residence time of about 0.5 hour to about 10 hours.